(b) if so, what are the details of the steps Government are taking to help the vehicle industry in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Following measures have been taken by the Government to stimulate demand for medium and heavy commercial vehicles:—

(i) Availability of credit to state and Municipal Transport Undertakings under IDBI's bill discounting system has been enhanced.

(ii) The condition of 10 per cent margin money for state and Municipal Transport Undertakings has been waived till June, 1987.

(iii) Ceiling on number of national permits for freight carriers has been lifted.

Decline in capacity utilisation in some industries

639. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the RBI report recently submitted to Government, capacity utilisation in tractors, machine tools and similar such industries has declined during the last one year;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to increase the capacity utilisation in such industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) The production of tractors during 1985-86 has been 73,591 Nos. as against production of 84,967 Nos. in 1984-85. The decline of production during 1985-86 is mainly due to demand constraint. The production of machine tools during the year 1985 was to the order of Rs. 302 crores as against the production of Rs. 299 crores in the year 1984. The basic reason for the production being static during 1985 is the changing pattern of demand by the user industry and the response time required by the manufacturers to adjust to this changing pattern in demand.

(c) With a view to stimulate the demand of tractors, certain liberlisation measures have been taken with regard to financing the purchase of tractors. These include increase in the repayment period from 7 years to 9 years reduction in the eligibility period for second bank loan from 7 years to 3 years, relaxation in the minimum land holding for bank loan eligibility from 10 acres to 8 acres etc.

In the machine tool sector, with a view to meet the changed pattern of demand, Government has encouraged the machine tool manufacturers taking up the manufacture of sophisticated machine tools including CNC machines. Some leading machine tool manufacturers have alreday started production of CNC machine tools.

Machanised production of coal

640. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new process for the mechanised production of soft coal which will not only minimise air pollution but also recover valuable by-product of tar, has been developed; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b) Cen-

tral mine planning and design Institute has developed a new technology of mechanised production of domestic coke. In the process of production of mechanised domestic coke, every care has been taken to keep the working areas free of pollutant through inclusion of suitable pollution control measures. Coal is devolatilised to yield domestic coke while gas leaving the retorts in the plant is subjected to spraying and cooling before it passes through the exhauster and scrubber where bulk of the tar contained in the gas is separated out. The tar-free gas is then partially recycled for improving productivity and yield of tar. The yield of domestic coke will generally be in the range of 70 to 80 per cent of coal devolatilised. The yield of such tar can normally vary from 1.25 per cent to 1.75 percent of coal devolatilised depending on the nature and quantity of volatile matter present in the coal.

Shortage of acitrom

@641. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there in an acute shortage of Acitrom, a life saving drug for persons who have under gone heart surgery for value replacements; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therfor and the steps being taken to meet the shortage of this life saving durg?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) Reports of shortage of Acitrom tablets were received from some State Drugs Control Authorities and others.

(b) The producer company M's S. G. Pharmaceuticals, Baroda have informed that the shortage was due to disruption in production for 2|3 months because of non-availability of intermediates required in the manufacture of the bulk drug. The company has now overcome the difficulties and resumed normal production. Based on this Ministry's advice, the company has already rushed sufficient stocks to various parts of the country.

Wrong address of Union Carbide Corporation

642. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had given wrong address of Union Carbide Corporation leading to further avoidable delays as reported in the Times of India of 10th October, 1986; and

(b) whether Government will make inquiries and fix responsibility in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) Since Union Cardibe is a New York Corporation, incorporated under the laws of New York, in the plaint a reference was made to the available address of Union Carbide Corporation (U. C. C.) in New York. Under Code of Civil Procedure summons could be served to the Corporation at its registered office. Summons have since also been issued to the address of U. C. C. in Danbury in the State on Connecticut. Advocates on behalf of Union Carbide Corporation had appeared in the Court of District Judge, Bhopal on 30th October, 1986.

(b) Does not arise.

@Previously Unstarred Question 261, transferred from the 5th November, 1986.